



**Shaare Torah Early Childhood Center
Shaare Torah Kindergarten
PARENT HANDBOOK**

As of 6/30/22, subject to change per public health guidance

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<https://www.shaaretorah.org/stecc>

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Rev. 6/30/2022

Shaare Torah Early Childhood Center & Kindergarten PARENT HANDBOOK

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME

A Letter from Allison Colker, Early
Childhood Center Director 3

ABOUT SHAARE TORAH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Inquiry- and Play-Based Learning 4
Social Emotional Learning 4
Kindergarten Readiness 4
Jewish Values 5

ABOUT SHAARE TORAH KINDERGARTEN

Our Program 6

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STECC Admission, Registration and
Tuition Policies 7
STK Admission, Registration and
Tuition Policies 7
School Hours 8
On-Time Arrival and Dismissal 8
Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures 8
Building Security 8
Dress for Success 9

SCHOOL CLOSING POLICY

Inclement Weather and Emergency
Situations 9

HEALTH, WELLNESS AND SAFETY

Health and Safety 10
Medical Forms 10
Vaccination Policy 11
COVID-19 Vaccination 11
Illnesses 11
Isolation 12
Quarantine 13
Allergies 13
Medication Administration 13
Behavior Management 14
Special Needs and Inclusion Policy 14

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Toilet Training 15
Lunch 15
Celebrating Birthdays and Holidays 16
Toys from Home 16
STECC Classroom Shabbat Celebration 17
Communication with School 17
Donations/ECC Fund 17

SHAARE TORAH COMMITTEES

Shaare Torah Education Committee 18
STECC/STK Parent Committee 18

SYNAGOGUE PROGRAMS FOR PRESCHOOL FAMILIES

Shabbat Services 19
Tot Shabbat 19

WELCOME!

A Letter from Allison Colker

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Shaare Torah Early Childhood Center and Shaare Torah Kindergarten. I am very pleased you have chosen our school for your child, and look forward to a year filled with creative, meaningful and fun learning experiences. At Shaare Torah Early Childhood Center and Shaare Torah Kindergarten, we believe that successful early childhood Jewish education is based on a child-centered, developmental approach to learning and a partnership between the staff and parents. Our goal is to provide a safe, warm, nurturing and accepting environment for your child.

I welcome and value your comments, questions and suggestions throughout the year. This Parent Handbook was compiled for your information and reference. Please read it carefully as it includes school policies and procedures. If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-869- 9842, ext. 117, acolker@shaaretorah.org, .

B'shalom,
Allison Colker

ABOUT SHAARE TORAH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER (STECC)

Our approach to learning is structured around four major components, each equally important and all interrelated: Inquiry- and Play-Based Learning; Social Emotional Learning; Kindergarten Readiness; and Jewish Values.

Inquiry- and Play-Based Learning

At the STECC, we guide children through the process of learning how to learn: learning how to ask questions, how to form theories, how to conduct research, and how to integrate information. This foundation will carry our young learners through their academic careers. Children construct knowledge through direct experience with the world around them. Our teachers provide those direct experiences through the lens of subjects that are of interest to each particular class of children. We integrate literacy, numeracy, science, and creativity all into the daily learning that takes place in our classrooms.

Social Emotional Learning

Our view of the child is that children are competent and capable. Perhaps the most important role we play is to foster young children's social emotional development. This takes many forms: helping children to understand and manage their feelings; teaching children to self soothe; fostering children's self-care; and facilitating social skills. Research shows the importance of these skills for success beyond preschool and all the way into adulthood. Kindergarten and first grade teachers report that these skills are more important for success beyond preschool than any specific academics.

We work with even our youngest children to identify their feelings, read facial cues to understand how others are feeling, and develop strategies to manage those feelings. When children are upset, we provide them techniques to calm themselves. We teach our children self-care both for their bodies and their belongings. Last but not least, we work with children to understand and follow rules, have appropriate interactions with their peers, and solve their own problems. Through careful facilitation with our teachers, our children can learn how to choose and implement solutions to many conflicts that arise during social interactions.

Kindergarten Readiness

Throughout our preschool program, and particularly in our Pre-K (4s class), we are preparing our children for Kindergarten and beyond. We integrate STREAM (Science, Technology, Relationships, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) into our Pre-K and 3s rooms, in which the children work in small groups to solve challenges based on scientific principles. We do not simply read books with the children, we ask them to answer comprehension questions and to make predictions. When we cook, garden, or paint, we integrate literacy and numeracy by writing recipes and instructions and by learning fractions and measurements.

Just as a Kindergarten or 1st grade class is structured, our Pre-K class has center-based learning. At these centers children are working in small groups with limited teacher supervision to complete discrete learning tasks, such as pattern-making and sorting. During center time, each teacher will work with one or two students at a time on a more in-depth project. In the Pre-K class, we teach children how to write uppercase letters, lowercase letters, and numbers using Handwriting Without Tears, an occupational therapy-based program for teaching writing to young learners.

Jewish Values

We are a Jewish preschool with diverse children and teachers. The highlight of the week for all of us is celebrating Shabbat as a community on Friday morning. Our entire school joins together for a spirited Shabbat Sing. Then each class heads back to their room for a Taste of Shabbat, where they say the blessings, light the candles, drink grape juice, and eat challah. We say blessings before we eat snack and lunch, as a way to express our thanks for our food. Throughout the year, we study and celebrate each holiday as it occurs. We teach the story of the holiday and customs in a way that is age appropriate. In studying each holiday, we focus on what the core value is (i.e., checking in with friends whose feelings we've hurt on Yom Kippur, welcoming guests on Sukkot, giving gifts on Purim, etc.), learn about that value, and practice implementing it.

ABOUT SHAARE TORAH KINDERGARTEN (STK)

Shaare Torah Kindergarten (STK) is a private kindergarten program that provides kindergarten curriculum in a warm, nurturing environment tailored to each child's individual learning and development. STK prepares students for 1st grade using the same curriculum and benchmarks as Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). STK teachers guide their small classes through their kindergarten journey by scaffolding each child's learning according to their own unique pace and learning style, supporting and challenging each student to succeed to their full potential.

STK is a private school licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Nonpublic Schools Approval Branch. STK is a separate school from Shaare Torah Early Childhood Center (STECC). STK is a secular kindergarten program, not a Judaic or Hebrew immersion kindergarten.

Our Program

Our teachers have degrees in early childhood education (preschool-3rd grade) or elementary education (Kindergarten-5th grade) with experience teaching Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade.

We follow MCPS Kindergarten benchmarks. We use the same math curriculum as MCPS, Eureka Math. For English Language Arts (ELA), we use the Learning A-Z curriculum, which uses the same reading levels and assessments as MCPS.

We group students into ELA groups and math groups that optimize their learning while providing opportunities for social-emotional learning. Teachers provide guided reading and guided math in addition to independent work.

In addition to ELA and math, our curriculum includes science, social studies, art, music, physical education, and more. Small class sizes and individualized instruction means that we meet each learner where they are, provide all of the support needed, and challenge them to learn and grow.

We foster independence and responsible citizenship in the way the children care for themselves, their belongings, their materials, their classroom, and each other. We emphasize teamwork and collaboration. Much of our learning is driven by playing games together.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

STECC Admission, Registration and Tuition Policies

STECC does not discriminate by race, religion, national origin or gender in its admission policies. Members of Shaare Torah congregation receive priority within a designated registration period for all our programs.

A non-refundable application fee is required at the time of registration. Upon acceptance to our program, the tuition deposit cannot be refunded.

In the 2022-2023 school year, tuition is based on a school year, beginning in September and ending in the following mid-June. If two children in the same family are registered, there is a 10 percent reduction in tuition for the child whose tuition is lower. All synagogue and school financial obligations must be kept current in order for:

- Your child to enter school.
- Continuation in our program throughout the school year.
- Applications for the next school year to be processed.
- Transcripts to be completed and forwarded to other schools.

To keep your account current, please make your payments according to the fee and payment schedule provided by our accounting department.

STK Admission, Registration and Tuition Policies

STK does not discriminate by race, religion, national origin or gender in its admission policies. Members of Shaare Torah congregation receive priority within a designated registration period for all our programs.

A non-refundable application fee and 5% tuition deposit is required at the time of registration. Upon acceptance to our program, the tuition deposit cannot be refunded.

In the 2022-2023 school year, tuition is based on a school year, beginning in September and ending in the following mid-June. If two children in the same family are registered, there is a 10 percent reduction in tuition for the child whose tuition is lower. All synagogue and school financial obligations must be kept current in order for:

- Your child to enter school.
- Continuation in our program throughout the school year.
- Applications for the next school year to be processed.
- Transcripts to be completed and forwarded to other schools.

To keep your account current, please make your payments according to the fee and payment schedule provided by our accounting department.

STECC School Hours

Half-Day:

9:15am-1pm

Full-Day:

8:30am-4pm

Complete Day:

7am-6pm

STK School Hours

Kindergarten:

9am-3pm

Extended Day:

7am-6pm

On-Time Arrival and Dismissal

Being on time for arrival and dismissal is very important. This is your child's first education experience. On time arrival helps set the tone for your child for the rest of the day and stresses the importance of education in their life. Late pick-up may be upsetting and/or confusing for your child, who sees the rest of their classmates going home.

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

If someone other than a parent is picking up a child, a written note or email must be given to the teacher, director, or school administrator, in advance, clearly identifying the authorized individual. No child will be released to a person who has not been authorized in advance and in writing or email by a parent, and that individual must be prepared to show proper identification if requested. Additionally, parents must provide written authorization for any change in the normal pick-up routine.

We would also like to remind parents that it is illegal in the state of Maryland to leave a child unattended in a motor vehicle. We are obligated to report any instances of this that we witness. We encourage parents who have children that they feel must be left in the car to request another parent to watch the child.

Building Security

Each family will be provided with fingerprint access and/or a fob to use during drop-off and pick-up.

Dress for Success

Students should wear clothing that allows them to participate fully and safely in the class activities at school. Please remember it's preschool, where we expect children to get messy and dirty, as painting, playing outside, and cooking are all regular parts of our day. Children should wear appropriate shoes (closed-toed shoes) in order to participate in the day's activities. No sandals, crocs, flip-flops or other open-toed shoes are permitted. Children will have daily outdoor play as long as there is no inclement weather (snow, ice, freezing rain, sleet, hail, polar vortex, heat advisory, air quality advisory). At teachers' discretion and with parent authorization, classes may go out to play in the rain, as long as they have appropriate gear and there is no thunder or lightning.

Please make sure that children have the appropriate outdoor clothing, including hats and gloves during the winter. Please label all clothing, including outerwear, as well as lunch bags and backpacks with your child's name.

SCHOOL CLOSING POLICY

Inclement Weather and Emergency Situations

The STECC/STK inclement weather policy reflects our school's core values of keeping all of our families and teachers safe and being working parent friendly.

- On the first day of a weather event:
 - If MCPS closes childcare programs in school buildings, then STECC/STK will be closed.
 - If MCPS states that child care programs in school buildings may open, then STECC/STK will make an independent determination.
 - If MCPS has a 2-hour delay, then STECC/STK will open at 9:15am.
 - If MCPS has a 1-hour delay, then STECC/STK will open at 8:30am.
 - If MCPS closes 2.5 hours early, STECC and STK will close at 1pm.
 - If MCPS cancels after-school activities, STECC and STK will close at 3pm.
- On subsequent days of a weather event, STECC/STK will make an independent determination.

Regardless of any decision STECC/STK makes to open school, please make your own independent decisions regarding road safety for your individual family.

STECC/STK will send emails and text messages via the Remini app. All ECC parents are automatically subscribed to email and text reminders via the Remini app. The decision concerning closings or delayed opening will be made by 6am and concerning early dismissals by 11am. An email will be sent out by 6am.

In the instance of sudden inclement weather or other emergency (i.e. power outages, hurricanes, no heat, etc.), the Director may close the school at her discretion before MCPS has made its formal decision. In this case, you will be notified by email and text as soon as the decision has been made. Someone from the school will follow-up with a phone call to let each family know the nature of the problem.

Please use your discretion regarding the condition of the roads and the safety of your children in determining whether to venture out in the morning or to pick up your child early even if we have not closed the school.

HEALTH, WELLNESS AND SAFETY

Health and Safety

Your child's health is a matter of major importance. As members of a school community, each child's health impacts the public health of the other children and staff. STECC/STK has an obligation to enforce our health policies in order to keep all children in our care safe and well. Thank you for your partnership in keeping everyone in the STECC/STK community healthy and safe.

Medical Forms

The Health Department requires a completed health form for each child, identifying immunizations and including a tuberculin clearance and evidence of lead poison screening. In addition, an emergency form must be completed and submitted by a parent that identifies at least two individuals, with current addresses and telephone numbers, who are to be contacted in the event of an emergency. These forms must be on file with the school before your child may attend class. It is the parents' responsibility to notify the school of any changes in this information that may occur during the school year.

It is also the parents' responsibility to notify the school of any medical conditions or allergies that might be relevant to your child's attendance at the ECC and any changes to that condition or allergy that may occur during the school year. All such medical conditions and allergies must be addressed by a statement from your child's physician that identifies the nature of the medical condition or allergy and what steps (if any) the STECC/STK staff may have to take in the event a related problem occurs.

Vaccination Policy

As a preschool with Jewish values, we follow Pikuach Nefesh which states it is a person's duty as members of society to protect all of its members. The Maryland immunization schedule must be met. In cases where a delayed schedule is recommended by the physician, a note from the physician is required, along with a projected schedule of immunization. In cases where a physician has determined that a child cannot receive one or vaccinations for medical reasons only, we require a doctor's note confirming this.

COVID-19 Vaccination

- Teachers and Staff: All teachers and staff must be fully vaccinated and boosted.
- Students 5 and Over: All students 5 and over must have their second dose of Pfizer by August 15th. (If Moderna is approved for children 5 and over, that will then be an acceptable option as well.)
- Students Under 5: All students must have their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna by August 15th. (Pfizer has a third dose in the series, which will be given at least two months after the second dose.)

Illnesses

A child should not be sent to STECC/STK when they are not feeling well. Germs are shared quickly in a school environment. You can help all our children stay healthier by keeping your sick child at home.

Please notify the school when your child is not attending by sending a message in the Remini app.

These are circumstances that would exclude your child from school:

- **Symptoms of COVID-19**

If any one of these symptoms is present, your child is excluded from school until (1) your child has a negative PCR test, (2) you provide a doctor's note with an alternative medical diagnosis, or (3) your child stays home from school for 10 days.

- o fever or chills
- o cough (either new or different than usual)
- o shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- o fatigue
- o muscle or body aches
- o headache
- o the new loss of taste or smell
- o sore throat
- o congestion or runny nose

- o nausea or vomiting
- o diarrhea
- **Risk of COVID-19 Exposure**
 - o If your unvaccinated child has had close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24 hour period) with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 or suspected of having COVID-19.
 - o If your child is waiting for a COVID-19 test result.
- **Other Exclusionary Illnesses**

If your child is diagnosed with, or tests positive for, one of the following exclusionary illnesses, they cannot return to school until cleared by a physician to return and you must provide a doctor's note.

 - o Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
 - o Strep
 - o Influenza A or Influenza B ("Flu")
 - o Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease
 - o Conjunctivitis ("Pink Eye")
 - o Impetigo
 - o Croup
 - o Lice. If your child has lice, they need to be treated and lice-free before returning to school.
- **Symptoms to look for in your decision to keep your child home**
 - o Has a cold that began less than 4 days ago
 - o Red, pink, or crusted eyes
 - o Stomach ache
 - o Nausea
 - o Ear ache
 - o Rash/skin infection
 - o Headache
 - o Thick or greenish mucus from the nose

We reserve the right to request a doctor's note when there is any doubt about whether or not your child has recovered. Please notify the school at once if your child has a communicable disease (i.e. COVID-19, lice, conjunctivitis/pink eye, Hand Foot and Mouth Disease, strep throat, flu, chicken pox, etc.), so that we can inform the parent body. We will not identify your child in that communication.

If we are concerned about your child's health, we will call you to either discuss our concerns or ask you to pick up your child.

Isolation

If a child or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, they must complete an isolation.

- Fully Vaccinated 2 and Over: 5 days isolation at home, then if symptoms are resolved and no fever for at least 24 hours without medication, then remaining 5

days in school wearing a mask inside and outside and distancing by 6' for meals and rest

- Under 2: 10 days isolation at home
- Unvaccinated: 10 days isolation at home

Quarantine

If a member of the class tests positive for COVID-19, they must complete a quarantine.

- Fully Vaccinated 2 and Over: as long as no symptoms or fever, 10 days in school wearing a mask inside and outside and distancing by 6' for meals and rest, with a negative PCR test on Day 5
- Unvaccinated 2 and Over: 5 days quarantine at home, PCR test on Day 5, then if no symptoms and no fever, then remaining 5 days in school wearing a mask inside and outside and distancing by 6' for meals and rest
- Under 2: 10 days quarantine at home

Allergies

Shaare Torah Early Childhood Center is a nut free environment. Parents may not send any nut products to school. This includes personal lunches. Please remember that foods such as Bamba, Nutella, Reese's peanut butter cups, and Reese's Pieces contain nuts. Please be mindful that most granola bars contain nuts. All allergies must be documented with a statement from your child's physician and discussed with the School staff. Food allergies require very specific information including the following:

- What type of allergy, with specifics (i.e. if nuts, what type?)
- What reaction does the child have and what level of exposure is acceptable (i.e. eating, touching, in the room)
- What treatment, if any, is necessary after exposure

A detailed allergy list will be posted in each classroom that includes each child's name and all items to which they are allergic. Your child's health and well-being is of vital importance to us.

Medication Administration

The administration of medication to children while they are attending school should be avoided. Treatment schedules which allow medicine to be given at times other than school hours are preferred. However, if in the opinion of your child's physician, it is necessary for medication to be given during school hours, a representative of the school will administer the medication in accordance with the following procedures:

- 24 hours of medication must be given before your child can return to school.
- Any medication brought to school must be checked in at the Director's office upon arrival.
- Staff members may not administer any medication, including over the counter drugs to any students, except as authorized by a parent and the child's physician.
- The parent is responsible for administering the first dose of the day at home to be

certain there are no side effects.

- The parent is responsible for notifying the school in person or by telephone the first morning a new medication is brought to school.
- A physician statement and completed authorization form from the doctor are required to administer any medication.
- All prescription medications must be in the original container with your child's name, date, medication name and dosage instructions clearly affixed by the pharmacy. It is easier to ask the pharmacist to put the medication into two containers so that one can be at school while the other remains at home.

Behavior Management

STECC/STK is dedicated to providing the best in early childhood education for young children. Positive, age-appropriate behavior management techniques are incorporated into our program and involve the children as active participants in the problem-solving process. Cooperation between parents and staff is vital in guiding the social and emotional development of our children.

Children learn that certain types of behavior are not acceptable. However, if undesirable behavior continues, the teacher will contact the parents to discuss joint methods of addressing the problem.

Any discussions with staff will be strictly confidential. If a behavior problem becomes severe or potentially dangerous, and until a plan of action is decided upon, parents may be required to remove the child from school. Please understand that STECC/STK has complete discretion to remove a child on the recommendation of the staff.

Special Needs and Inclusion Policy

The staff of STECC/STK will work in partnership with families to find innovative solutions to best meet the individual needs of each child.

- Our classes offer an age-appropriate student to teacher ratio.
- Where necessary, modifications may be made in schedules, programs, materials, etc. to meet an individual child's needs.
- STECC/STK collaborates with Maryland State and Montgomery County programs such as ChildLink, Infants and Toddlers, and Child Find.
- If it is necessary to go beyond the public resources to private resources, STECC/STK has consultancy with Amy Egan of Child Development Consultants, Orly Zimmerman Leizerov of Growing Minds Therapy, Claire Lerner of Lerner Child Development, and Meredith Polsky of MATAN. If needed, an interdisciplinary team of special needs consultants (occupational therapy, speech and language, and behavioral) is available through the Child Development Consultants, LLC. They provide support and help to parents and teachers, conduct classroom observations, give consultations to staff and parents, and provide recommendations for professional referrals. In addition, they provide

- training for staff to support children with special needs.
- At the parents' expense, and as deemed necessary by the Director, the school may require additional professional support (i.e., para-educators, facilitators, shadows, resources, etc.) in the classroom.
 - We will serve as a resource and support to families on referrals to Child Find and other services available in the community.
 - Children in the PEP program can split their time between STECC and PEP, receive services from an itinerant PEP educator in an STECC classroom, or attend STECC in the morning and be bussed to PEP in the afternoon.
 - Our Director and teachers attend IEP meetings.

If a child has been observed by a special needs consultant and an evaluation has been recommended, it is expected that families will make the appropriate arrangements for testing and/or assessment. Any relevant information, such as reports, assessments, evaluations, IEPs, etc. prepared by other professionals must be provided to us in a timely manner, so that we can best address the needs of the child. All information will be held in the strictest confidence.

We will do our best to meet each child's needs, but we recognize our limitations. Although we will make every attempt to make accommodations in our classrooms, parents should understand that, if we feel that we cannot properly address your child's needs, we will make every attempt to work with you to find an alternative placement.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Toilet Training

Children do not need to be toilet trained in order to attend school. If your child is wearing diapers, you will need to send in a package of diapers and wipes at the beginning of the school year. As you begin to toilet train your child at home, please advise the staff. We are very willing to work as partners with you, but please understand that sometimes, even when children are successful at home, it may take longer for them to feel comfortable in school.

Lunch

Students should bring their lunch in a clearly labeled lunch bag. Please keep good nutrition in mind as you plan lunchtime menus and include a beverage, napkin and necessary utensils.

Please send in only what your child will eat. Foods containing any nut products may not be brought to school. The school follows the congregational rules for kashrut. Only dairy or parve (foods with no dairy or meat ingredients) are permitted in the school. The

lunches will be refrigerated.

Food items brought to school for class use must be approved in advance by the teacher or Director. Please refer to the synagogue's website (www.shaaretorah.org) for a downloadable document labeled "kashrut symbols" for guidance in your selections. Because of different home standards for kashrut, foods prepared at home may not be brought to school for class use.

Celebrating Birthdays and Holidays

Children enjoy sharing their birthdays with friends. It is a wonderful opportunity for children to be generous and gracious. Taking turns at being the focus of attention is an important opportunity for emotional growth.

Birthday celebrations in school are a special time for the class as a community to come together to honor a friend. The class will come together at the beginning of the year to decide on a way to commemorate the birthdays, for instance with a book, canvas, sculpture, or frame. The parents are invited to join the class for the birthday celebration. This is usually early in the day (around 9:30 or 10:00) or after lunch at 12:30. We can work with parents to schedule the time that works best for the family and the class. Parents should send a new or used book to read to the class and then give as a gift to the class on the occasion of your child's birthday.

You may distribute birthday invitations through the school only if every child in the class is invited. No presents/notices/invitations can be delivered to school or the classrooms unless every child in the intended classroom receives one.

When planning your child's birthday party, please be sensitive to the fact that some children may not be able to attend parties scheduled on Shabbat (Friday night and Saturday) and Jewish Holidays.

Throughout the year, we will celebrate many holidays in school. Periodically, parents will be invited to participate in events, such as Hanukkah and Purim celebrations. However, we do not celebrate Halloween, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Christmas, or Easter in our school. Please do not distribute candy or cards at those times.

Toys from Home

We ask that you leave your child's toys at home or in the car. We do not want toys from home broken or lost.

STECC Classroom Shabbat Celebration

Although Shabbat does not begin until Friday evening, we prepare for its arrival by lighting the Shabbat candles and reciting the blessings with the children every Friday.

In our school program, we invite parents to join in their child's class in a Shabbat celebration. The sharing of Shabbat with others is a highlight of the week!

Communication with School

Together, parents and teachers are partners in a child's development, and communication between parents and the school staff is vital. Teachers will meet both parents and children before school starts at outdoor class get-togethers and over Zoom parent meetings. Parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled twice a year. If you have questions or concerns about your child at any time during the school year, please make arrangements to speak to your teacher. All STECC/STK teachers have Shaare Torah email addresses for parent communications. If you wish to speak to the teacher by telephone, please call the school and leave a message, and your call will be returned in a timely manner. We will treat all communication as strictly confidential.

We have an app called Remini which will be your primary way of communicating with the teachers, and the teachers with you. You will receive regular updates and pictures regarding your child and their class, as well as be able to communicate privately with their teacher team through messaging. We request that any information that any teacher may need access to be put in Remini. Some examples are: an early pick up time, an absence, a request for a lost item of clothing, a need for more diapers.....

Please give any written correspondence directly to the teacher. Also, the Director is always available to meet with you to discuss any questions or concerns that you have about your child, whether it directly relates to an issue at school or pertains to something at home. Please inform the school if a special family situation arises during the year. This could include illness, separation, divorce, loss of a loved one, an extended trip by one parent, or a new baby in the family. By informing the school, we will be prepared to help your child through a difficult or stressful situation.

Please note that the director and teachers do not respond to emails or phone calls during Shabbat (Friday evening through Saturday evening) and holidays with work prohibitions (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Sh'mini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, Passover, and Shavuot).

Donations/Early Childhood Center Fund

The Shaare Torah Early Childhood Center Fund is a great way to support the School. Congregants, parents, friends and relatives have the opportunity to make a donation to the Early Childhood Center to honor a child for a birthday, graduation or other occasion.

The purpose of this fund is to enrich our children's school program by providing special resources and equipment. Checks should be made payable to Shaare Torah, with a note stating, "This donation is being made in honor of (child's name) for (occasion)."

These checks should then be sent to:
Shaare Torah
1409 Main Street,
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

All donations are acknowledged in the synagogue weekly electronic newsletter. All donations are tax-deductible.

SHAARE TORAH COMMITTEES

Shaare Torah Education Committee

The Shaare Torah Education Committee welcomes you and hopes that your child's year is full of fun, learning and wonderful experiences. The mission is to be a liaison with the Early Childhood Center and the synagogue to ensure continuity within our programs and make the Early Childhood Center the best it can be. The Education Committee works with the Director on policies, procedures, facilities, and special programs.

STECC/STK Parent Committee

Parents of current students who wish to take a more active role in volunteerism and serving as liaisons between the parent community and school staff comprise the STECC/STK Parent Committee. The purpose of the Parent Committee is to encourage unity, cooperation and understanding among parents and school staff, to volunteer and recruit parents to volunteer at ECC functions, and to fundraise for the school. The Parent Committee is involved in many different activities including Parents' Night Out, parent programs and special programs for the children. Everyone is encouraged to take an active role in the Parent Committee.

SYNAGOGUE PROGRAMS FOR PRESCHOOL FAMILIES

Shaare Torah runs several programs for preschool aged children and their families. These are great opportunities to meet other families with children, enjoy Shabbat, and spend time as a family in a Jewish environment. All are welcome and encouraged to participate!

Shabbat Services

There are Shabbat services every Saturday at 9:30 am at the Synagogue. The Torah service starts at approximately 10:15 am when young children are invited to help open the ark.

Tot Shabbat

Preschoolers and their families joyously celebrate Shabbat at our monthly "Tot Shabbat" service. Using short prayers, songs, stories and movement, preschoolers and parents celebrate Shabbat as a community. The "Tot Shabbat" service takes place on the first Saturday of each month at about 10:30 am.